IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR DELETION OF INVENTORS

As a preliminary matter, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

<u>Page 1</u>: insert the following paragraph starting at line 1:

This application is a division of copending U.S. Application No. 09/244,914, filed February 4, 1999.

In the Claims:

- 1.(Canceled)
- 2.(Canceled)
- 3.(Canceled)
- 4.(Canceled)